

Music and Concerts

'Cosi Fan Tutte' Production to Be Daring Operatic Venture

Metropolitan's Impresario Shows He Is Not Afraid to Dangle the Bait of Serene Art Before New York Public.

By W. J. HENDERSON.

GULIO GATTI-CASAZZA, impresario of the Metropolitan Opera House, purposes on Friday evening next to show that he is not afraid to dangle the bait of serene art before the New York public. He will on that evening produce on the stage of his theater Mozart's opera buffa in two acts entitled "Cosi Fan Tutte." It is said that this work has never been given in this city, and probably that is correct. Whether it has been performed in New Orleans, where every opera is given before it is known here, has not yet been told. Nor will it greatly matter if it has been sung in the Southern city. It will be new here to the old and young worshippers of operatic stars.

The libretto of "Cosi Fan Tutte" is not regarded as one of the great creations of Lorenzo da Ponte, about whom many learned essays have been written. The reason for profound interest in Da Ponte is that he died in this city in 1837. Having begun life as a professor of rhetoric in Treviso and risen to be court poet at Vienna, where he wrote "Don Giovanni" and "Cosi Fan Tutte," he afterward went to London and wrote Italian opera librettos. In 1805 he arrived in New York, was engaged in various operatic enterprises with varying degrees of failure, and wound up as teacher of Italian at Columbia College. He published four volumes of memoirs, which the writer of these lines has not read.

Mozart wrote "Cosi Fan Tutte" to order. He had achieved a great success with "Le Nozze di Figaro" and the Emperor commissioned him to write a new work. "It was not in his power," gravely remarks one of the historians, "to decline the commission, and the libretto was provided him without consultation of his wishes." We need not take this neglect of Mozart's desires too seriously. He probably did not. He may have drawn the line at the fearsome book of "Die Zauberflöte," but the rather naive comedy of intrigue furnished by Da Ponte was possibly not in the least unbecoming to Mozart's facile mind.

He was at work on the score in 1799. According to the faithful Jahn it was successful, though it did not hold its place long in the repertory. Jahn does not record a high opinion of the libretto. In fact he intimates that the great Da Ponte had no originality, but merely dexterity in the treatment of his subject.

Story Not of New Ideas.

His story is certainly not made of new ideas. The title of the work in extenso is "Cosi Fan Tutte Ossia la Scuola degli Amanti, dramma giocoso in due atti." Which, being translated somewhat freely, means "Thus everything goes, or the school for lovers; joyous drama in two acts." "Cosi fan tutte" is perhaps best accepted as an equivalent to our "It's the way of the world."

The plot might have been taken from "Boccaccio," except for the fact that it is somewhat more discreet than the revelations of that admirable Italian. Of the thousand and one tales of the tests of lovers' constancy and mistress's fidelity Da Ponte had his choice of incidents all the way from the experiences of Jupiter to those of Guido Cavalcanti or Buffalmacco. His intrigue would make a modern Broadway dramatist blush for very shame because of its baldness; but it furnishes excellent food for opera buffa music, and that is what Mozart required.

There are three women, one of whom is the clever maid so dear to Mozart. There are two lovers and a third man, who is the manipulator of the wires. The game is simple—on the stage. *Fiordiligi*, a soprano lady, and *Dorabella*, also inhabiting the treble clef, are betrothed to *Guglielmo*, a baritone, and *Ferrando*, tenor. *Alfonso*, buffo, declines to believe the ecstatic praises of the women by their lovers and allows that in almost no time he can make both angels unfaithful.

With the help of the smart lady's maid he gets the two lovers sent off to a fictitious war and instantly returns in disguise to lay siege to the women in the supposed absence of their lovers. The stage disguises are of course successful, but the first attacks on the fair citadels are failures. But the subtle enemy does not abandon the siege. The lovers, disguised as Albanians, take poison and fall in convulsions. The doctor (the maid in disguise) is summoned. He makes the women hold the sufferers' heads. The sufferers like it, rave in their bliss, and try to kiss the women. They are repulsed. The maid and her employer prepare a new assault.

Heroine in Male Attire.

It would be tedious to carry the reader through the remaining details. It is worthy of mention, however, that *Fiordiligi* dons a uniform and prepares to follow her lover to the wars. How strange it must be to behold a comic opera heroine in male attire! Indeed, there is nothing new under the gridiron. About the music little need be said till after the performance. But about Mr. Gatti-Casazza's venturesome spirit something should be said.

The Metropolitan is a devouring institution. It is not well suited to the performance of a comedy of intrigue in which shades of expression are of so much significance. In Munich "Cosi Fan Tutte" used to be given in the Residenz Theater, which is about the size of the Little Theater in West Forty-fourth street. When the work was done there, with Felix Mottl conducting an orchestra of about thirty-five players, and with all the advantages of the revolving stage, to say nothing of the incomparable impersonation of *Fiordiligi* by Frieda Hempel, it was a joy from beginning to end.

But in this city the fate of an opera buffa is proverbially uncertain. The public was never enthusiastic about "Le Nozze di Figaro," and only insistent repetition has finally won a permanent place for "Il Barbiere di Siviglia." What has become of "Le Don Giovanni" and "Il Segreto di Susanna"? The latter was given in

Stars of the Opera and Concert Stages



Artur Bodanzky to Conduct Philharmonic Concert To-day

Walter Damrosch to Begin Second Series of Piano Recitals Explanatory of Wagner's Works—Symphony Orchestra to Make Final Appearances.

ARTUR BODANZKY, as guest conductor, will lead the Philharmonic Society's first of two Sunday afternoon concerts at the Metropolitan Opera House to-day. The program: Beethoven, Symphony, "Eroica"; Ravel, Suite, "Mother Goose"; Wagner, Overture, "Rienzi"; With Mr. Mengelberg as guest conductor the society's program for Tuesday evening in the same theater is: Brahms, "Academic Festival Overture"; Schilling, "Impressions from an Artist's Life" (variations for orchestra and piano), with the composer at the piano; MacDowell, "Indian Suite," opus 48; Liszt, "Les Preludes."

On Thursday evening and Friday afternoon at Carnegie Hall the Philharmonic's program will be: Schumann, overture to "Manfred"; Sibelius, concerto for violin, D minor, Alexander Schmutz, soloist; Strauss, "Ein Heldenleben." Mr. Mengelberg will conduct.

Josef Strakosky, the Philharmonic conductor, sailed on St. Patrick's Day for his European engagements. He has been invited to conduct in concert and opera in festival performances of works of Mozart and Wagner. He will return to New York at the end of September to take up his duties with the Philharmonic for next season.

The New York Symphony Orchestra will give its final pair of concerts in Carnegie Hall on Thursday afternoon and Friday evening with Miss Elsa Farnum as soloist. The program will comprise Tchaikovsky's symphony No. 4, several excerpts from "Tannhauser," namely, the prelude to Act III, "Tannhauser's Pilgrimage to Rome," the march and chorus from Act II, the overture, and "Bilbolbel's air from Act II, and Weber's air, "Ocean, Thou Mighty Monster," from "The Albatross." The last of the Symphony Society's concerts for children will take place on Saturday morning in Aeolian Hall. Mr. Damrosch will explain and then lead the orchestra in music illustrating the violin, viola, cello and harp. The list of pieces to be taken up are overture to Rossini's "Semiramide," Handel's Largo, love song from the "Agnostic Suite," by Saint-Saens; Gounod's "Ave Maria," arranged from a prelude of Bach; "Under the Trees," from Massenet's "Alcazar Suite," and march from Wagner's "Tannhauser."

Walter Damrosch will begin a second series of three explanatory recitals at the piano on the works of Richard Wagner in Aeolian Hall this afternoon. "Tristan and Isolde," "Parsifal" and "The Mastersingers" will be the three respective subjects. Mr. Damrosch plays the greater portion of the music and recites the text of the various scenes of the opera from a translation of his own with explanatory remarks.

The artists who will give the program at the People's Institute free concert to-night at Cooper Union Hall are: Miss May Peterson will sing an operatic aria and songs by Debussy, Dukas, and Strauss; Mrs. Frances Farrar, an aria from "Don Carlos"; Mr. Sembach, the prize song from "Die Meistersinger"; Mr. Marjorie, the overture to "Carmen"; the orchestra, led by Mr. Bambochek, will play the "Semiramide" overture, Borodine's "Steppe" sketch and Glazounov's "Autumn."

At to-night's concert at the Metropolitan Opera House, Saturday evening at Town Hall, Sander Harnad, conductor, offers fugue from string quartet, opus 59, No. 3, Beethoven; serenade, opus 8, D minor, "cello solo, Volkmann; romance, in C, Sibelius; berceuse, Lladow; "Dark Road," with viola solo, first time, Forsyth; Finnish lullaby, Palmgren; scherzo "Perpetuum mobile," Carl J. J. Schumann; introduction and allegro, opus 47, Elgar. Assisting artists: Mr. Mark Farnoff, Mrs. Marie Roemert, Mrs. Alex Marches, Miss Lucie Neidhardt and Miss Fay Purdy.

John McCormack will give his seventh concert of the season here to-night in Aeolian Hall. He will sing "The Irish Song," by Herbert Hughes, the Irish composer and assistant musical critic of the London Daily Telegraph, will appear as accompanist for the first time in this country in a group of vocal Irish songs arranged by himself for Mr. McCormack. Among the other numbers to be sung by the tenor are a "Rondo" by Mozart, a group of German songs, H. O. Osgood's song, "On Erilbe Island," first time, and in closing P. J. O'Reilly's "To Ireland."

The New York Chamber Music Society's last program for to-morrow night at Aeolian Hall is: Sonata, trios, E flat, opus 40; Coleridge-Taylor, quartet; Rousset, divertimento, A minor, opus 60; Hadley, andante and scherzo, manuscript. Proceeds of this concert for the benefit of Wilson College Endowment Fund.

Mme. Emma Calve will give a benefit concert at Town Hall Tuesday afternoon for the women's department, National Civic Federation, New York and New Jersey section. Mme. Calve will leave immediately after this concert for an extensive tour throughout Canada and the western part of the United States.

Mme. Frieda Hempel will give a request program at her last New York recital of the season in Carnegie Hall on Tuesday evening. Coenraad Bos will be at the piano. Louis Fritze, flutist, will also assist.

Charles M. Courbin, famous Belgian organist, formerly of Antwerp Cathedral, will play the fourth recital in the second series upon the new concert organ in the Wanamaker Auditorium on Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 P. M. Admission to this concert is by complimentary ticket obtainable upon application at the concert bureau, first gallery, new building, John Wanamaker, New York. The program: Marcello, "In Coeli Immensum"; Schubert, "Ave Maria"; Widor, intermezzo from Fourth Symphony; Berwald, variations and fugue, first performance, work dedicated to Courbin; Franck, serenade; Salomo, allegretto; Franck, finale, B flat.

The Letz Quartet, assisted by Leo Levy at the piano, will present to-morrow at the Master School of United Arts, 22 West Fifty-fourth street, the first of a series of concerts of the proceeds of which are to be used for the foundation of scholarships for talented students. The founders of the school, Prof. N. K. Roerich and Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Lichtmann, already have thirty-two pupils who are receiving instruction free of charge, but it is hoped that the forthcoming series of concerts, at which noted artists will give their services, will greatly increase the possibilities of this plan for aiding promising musical students. The concert will include numbers by Haydn, Schubert and Franck.

The program for the concert of the Women's String Orchestra on Saturday evening at Town Hall, Sander Harnad, conductor, offers fugue from string quartet, opus 59, No. 3, Beethoven; serenade, opus 8, D minor, "cello solo, Volkmann; romance, in C, Sibelius; berceuse, Lladow; "Dark Road," with viola solo, first time, Forsyth; Finnish lullaby, Palmgren; scherzo "Perpetuum mobile," Carl J. J. Schumann; introduction and allegro, opus 47, Elgar. Assisting artists: Mr. Mark Farnoff, Mrs. Marie Roemert, Mrs. Alex Marches, Miss Lucie Neidhardt and Miss Fay Purdy.

Other musical events of the week will be Miron Poliak's violin recital this afternoon in Carnegie Hall, E. Robert Schmitt's last of three piano recitals to-night in Rumford Hall, Miss Mildred Conrad's first piano recital here on Tuesday evening at Town Hall, Miss Margaret Keyes's song recital to-morrow night at Town Hall, Miss Henrietta Conrad's song recital (postponed from November 30 last) on Tuesday afternoon in Aeolian Hall, Alberto Scarlatti's first piano recital here on Tuesday evening at Town Hall, Miss Evelyn MacNeven's song recital on Tuesday evening in Aeolian Hall, Giacomo Quintano in the eighth recital in the historical violin series at Hunter College on Tuesday evening, Miss Florence Trumbull's first piano recital here on Wednesday afternoon at Town Hall, Mme. Kathleen Beaufort, composer-pianist, at Aeolian Hall on Thursday afternoon, Miss Idelle Patterson's annual song recital on Thursday evening at Aeolian Hall, Miss Ida Niemann's violin recital on Friday evening in Aeolian Hall, the Blind Men's Improvement Club concert on Saturday evening in Aeolian Hall and the last of the free concerts on Saturday evening at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Wilhelm Bachaus's program for his fourth recital on Friday evening at Town Hall is: Sonata, "Appassionata," Beethoven; "Des Abends," "Aufschwung," "Warum?" "Traumes Wirren," Schumann; polonaise phantastique, nocturne in D flat, ballad in A flat, two mazurkas, opus 50, No. 1, in G; No. 2, in A flat; four studies, opus 2, No. 2, in F minor; No. 2, in F; No. 3, in G flat; opus 10, No. 6, in F flat; Chopin; Impromptu, in B flat; Schubert; "Solres de Vienna," No. 6, Schubert; Liszt; military march, Schubert-Tausig.

Miss Erna Rubinstein, Hungarian violinist, will give her second recital on Saturday afternoon at Carnegie Hall. Her program will include Spohr's adagio from the concerto No. 2, Lale's "Symphonie Espagnole," Tchaikovsky's "Serenade Melancholique," Hubay's mazurka de concert and Paganini's "Hexentanz."

FREE BRAHMS LECTURE. Dr. Fleck will discuss the Brahms C major Trio, Op. 87, as the principal number at the lecture concert of the Adolph Lewishohn free chamber music course given at Hunter College Chapel next Thursday evening, March 23. Other numbers will be by Martin and Rubinstein. The Trio Classique will interpret these numbers.

'Tosca' and 'Zaza' Will Be Given for Italian Welfare

Night of Plays by Association of Which Gloria Caruso Was 'First Patroness.'

THE Children of Italian Emigrants Association, just a year old, which at the time of its founding last spring gave the "Gloria Bell" at the Hotel Vanderbilt in honor of the late Enrico Caruso's baby daughter, naming her as its "first patroness," is to have a night of plays in Italian and English this evening at the Republic Theater.

With Miss Maria Buzzi as the star, the third act of Sardou's "Tosca" will be given in Italian, and the last act of "Zaza" in English, together with "Una Partita a Scacchi," by Giuseppe Giacosa. An endowment fund of \$100,000 is to be raised, \$20,000 of this already has been obtained. Following the entertainment a campaign will at once be commenced for the completion of the fund.

On committee of entertainment are Prince and Princess Rospigliosi, Mr. Paul D. Gravatt, Mr. Chester H. Adrich, Mr. and Mrs. William Guggenheim, Mrs. John Adams Drake, who is one of the vice-presidents; Samuel M. Vaulain, Giovanni Martelli, Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Burchell, Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Derli, Dr. and Mrs. Antonio Stella, Dr. John W. Perrilli, Miss Marie Frusconi and Mr. Leonard J. Ropiglio. Dr. Giuseppe Previtali is the association's president, and among the honorary presidents are the Ambassador from Italy, Senator Rodolfo Ricci; the Apostolic Delegate in Washington, Mr. Giovanni Bonzano; the Italian High Commissioner, Francesco Quattrone, and the Italian Consul General at New York, Tomislav Bernardi.

The Children of Italian Emigrants Association is the newest and one of the most important of Italian American societies now in this country. Its membership includes both Italians and Americans. Its first work is to be the erection of a sanatorium in Aspromonte, Calabria, in the heart of the "Red Land" in Italy, by young Italian immigrants to this country, recently arrived here, who have still their way to make.

Columbia School to Organize an Orchestra

Instrumental musicians of both sexes who are interested in associating themselves with a West Side symphony orchestra are invited to attend an organization meeting to-morrow evening of the Columbia Symphony Orchestra at the Columbia Preparatory School and to bring their various musical instruments with them. The orchestra members will have their own organization and will secure the services of an experienced symphony orchestra director. After thorough training the orchestra will conduct choir and concert tours and a feature of the work will be regular public concerts at the Columbia Preparatory School.

The work of the symphony orchestra will be closely associated with that of the recently organized Columbia Choral Society. The training will benefit professional musicians as well as amateurs and it will give musicians of talent an opportunity of performing in public. Membership will be limited and an initial fee of \$25 will be charged, with weekly dues of \$2. The society will admit to membership only those whose talent indicates that they will be personally benefited and that their musical performances will prove a credit to the society. Discrimination will be made so as to preserve the proper social standard of members.

Concert Calendar.

TO-DAY. Metropolitan Opera House, 3, Philharmonic Society, Carnegie Hall, 3, Miron Poliak, violinist, Aeolian Hall, 3, Walter Damrosch, lecture-recital, subject, "Tristan and Isolde," by E. Robert Schmitt, pianist, Hippodrome, 8:15, John McCormack, tenor, Metropolitan Opera House, 8:30, opera concert, Cooper Union Hall, 8, free concert of People's Institute.

MONDAY. Town Hall, 3, Miss Mildred Farns, soprano, Town Hall, 8:15, Miss Margaret Keyes, contralto, Aeolian Hall, 8:15, New York Chamber Music Society.

TUESDAY. Metropolitan Opera House, 8:30, Philharmonic Society, Aeolian Hall, 3, Miss Henrietta Conrad, soprano, Carnegie Hall, 3, Mme. Emma Calve, soprano, Town Hall, 8:15, Miss Evelyn MacNeven, contralto, Town Hall, 8:15, Alberto Scarlatti, pianist, Hunter College, 8:15, Giacomo Quintano, in recital, violin recital, Carnegie Hall, 8:15, Miss Frieda Hempel, song recital, Wanamaker Auditorium, 8:30, Charles Courbin, organ recital.

WEDNESDAY. Town Hall, 3, Florence Trumbull, pianist, Town Hall, 8:15, Elgar Trio.

THURSDAY. Carnegie Hall, 3, New York Symphony Orchestra, Carnegie Hall, 8:30, Philharmonic Society, Aeolian Hall, 11, Miss Amy Grant, organ recital, Aeolian Hall, 3, Mme. Kathleen Beaufort, pianist, Carnegie Hall, 8:15, Miss Ida Niemann, violinist, Town Hall, 8:15, Miss Ida Niemann, violinist, Hunter College Chapel, 8:15, Adolph Lewishohn free chamber music concert.

FRIDAY. Carnegie Hall, 8:30, Philharmonic Society, Carnegie Hall, 8:15, New York Symphony Orchestra, Aeolian Hall, 8:15, Thomas O'Reilly, song recital, Town Hall, 8:15, Wilhelm Bachaus, pianist, Chial Hall, 8:15, Max and Margarita Selinsky, two violin recital.

SATURDAY. Aeolian Hall, 11, Symphony Society's concert for children, Aeolian Hall, 8:30, concert by Blind Men's Improvement Club, Carnegie Hall, 3, Erna Rubinstein, violinist, Town Hall, 8:15, Woman's String Orchestra, Metropolitan Museum of Art, free orchestral concert, MacDowell Gallery, 8:15, Dorsey Whittington, pianist.

Americans Join in Round of Gala Events on the Riviera

Mr. and Mrs. Perry Belmont, Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Eddy Among Those Giving Dinners at the Casino in Cannes.

By MAY BIRKHEAD.
Special Correspondence to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
MONTE CARLO, March 2.

THE Riviera season has reached its height only within the last week, and, according to the figures from Monte Carlo, it compares more favorably with last year than was anticipated. Last week the official figures at the Casino had reached 41,275,000 francs, and on the same date a year ago they were 48,000,000. The actual number of persons gambling probably exceeds that of last year, but the difference of more than 6,000,000 francs in the winnings of the house is due to the fact that there have been few big games.

Yesterday there were 1,200 visitors standing in line waiting for cards of entrance to the rooms, which would prove that gamblers are more numerous than ever, but they do not play for the high stakes. The gaming tables at all the casinos and clubs at every point on the Riviera are entirely empty at night and day, and the relays of croupiers are calling out the results and dividing the winnings imperturbably and incessantly, regardless of what the game may be.

Trente et quarante and roulette continue to be the favorite games at Monte Carlo, about 800,000 francs are not lost sight of, especially if Mr. Vagliano, the wealthy Greek ship builder of Deauville fame, is in evidence. He is worst of the habitués of Monte Carlo, and it is only when he is present that the big baccarat room of the Sporting Club is open. He always takes the bank, and it is only this one game that runs high, comparatively speaking, but even then it does not run into the millions, as it did before the war or as it did in Deauville two seasons ago, when Mr. Vagliano was one of the big players.

Tendency to Economize. To the newcomer the gambling probably seems high enough, but to the seasoned ones it is interesting to note that the universal tendency to economize in these hard times, is reflected even in this little world, where ordinarily all sense of values seems lost. Despite the lack of high stakes, there have been as many, if not more, hard luck stories going the rounds as of old. Women have gambled away their jewels and their automobiles. Only last week a French woman, who is always present at the gaming tables in Deauville in the summer and on the Riviera in the winter, sold a beautiful car to pay her debts.

The new heard to say this she was trusting to her husband's sweet heart would present her with another, but he had had the same misfortune at the tables. And it is easy enough to pick up a woman who has been reduced to poverty from such sources if one only makes it a habit to get into conversation with the gamblers.

At the clubs of Nice, Cannes and Menton baccarat is played owing to the fact that Monte Carlo has the exclusive rights for roulette and trente et quarante, and when baccarat is played at Monte Carlo it is only in the Sporting Club and not in the Casino. The baccarat rooms in the Nice casino have been filled to overflowing during the carnival week, but there, too, the season has been over. One bank reached 200,000 francs, but it was exceptional.

Americans Give Dinners.

The gala Saturday night dinners at the Casino in Cannes usually draw the baccarat players, as well as the dancers, from all the other points on the Riviera. Last Saturday night proved the record for the Duke of Connaught, who dined with the Americans and gave a luncheon. Among the Americans giving dinners were Mr. and Mrs. John R. Drekel, Mr. William Hude Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Belmont, Prince Christopher of Greece and her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. William B. Leeds; Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Eddy, Mr. and Mrs. Claus Spreckels, Miss Elliott, Miss Mary Carnegie, Mr. Terrage, who was Ruth Kins. The dinner was exceptionally pretty, with the women wearing the favors of the evening, which were green and blue mouselines de sole costumes from 8 to 10 o'clock, distributed by Paul Poiret. The diners were as much interested in seeing this well known dressmaker turning water by distributing the favors at a restaurant as they were in the dinner itself.

The dinners at the Casino in Nice during this last carnival week have been even more of a success than those at Cannes. There were more than 1,000 persons present at the first redeute at the Casino last Sunday night. The whole building was decorated with green and mauve lights, which were the colors of the day, and every dancer wore costumes made of materials of the same colors. The floor was a swaying silken mass of color and it was one of the most brilliant nights of the carnival. The diners were as much interested in seeing this well known dressmaker turning water by distributing the favors at a restaurant as they were in the dinner itself.

These nightly fetes and ball in Nice to celebrate the carnival have been a wonderful success and next week it is expected that the carnival will be even greater, as a further influx of English visitors is expected, now that the royal wedding no longer will keep them in London. Americans have perhaps not been so numerous at the fetes, but the few who have been noted, even through their masks, are apparently enjoying the picturesque scenes and entering into the spirit of the carnival as if they were natives of Nice. Mr. Joseph Riter of New York and Paris was heard to say that he had missed a single ball or fete during the entire carnival, and he danced until five o'clock each morning for the last week, had had a different fancy dress costume every night, had ridden on the floats and had danced with the nobiles in the streets and had thrown several hundred pounds of confetti and had enjoyed every minute of it.

Miss Dressler Entertains.

Further evidence of a big season has been the number of diners at Ciro's in Monte Carlo for the last week. A thirty years record was broken last night, when the number of diners happened to be on the restaurant's thirtieth anniversary. And all the other restaurants were filled to overflowing.

At Ciro's, which is one of the new gay restaurants, Mr. John Leishman gave a night "just for the sake of old times," as he explained, and, of course, there were many Americans present. M. and Mrs. Jacques Balsan (Comte de Vaudreuil) and her two sons, Lord Ivor Spencer Churchill and the Marquis of Blandford, were present. The Duchesse de Talleyrand (Anna Gould) was entertaining. Mr. John Leishman, formerly of the diplomatic service, and his son, Mr. John Leishman, Jr., and Mrs. Edward Sturges, wife of Lieut.

Col. Sturges of the U. S. army on the Rhine. Others were Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Field Malone, Mrs. Theodore Gilbert King and her daughter, Miss Gwendolyn King, Mrs. Huntington Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Frederic Penfield, Brig.-Gen. Peyton C. March, Baron and Baroness Rosenkrantz and Mr. Alexander Legare of Washington, D. C.

Those who have not visited the Riviera for several years are constantly running onto something new in Monte Carlo, and it seems that M. Camille Biazet, who is the president of the corporation that owns the Casino, and is the general manager of Monte Carlo, has further surprises in view for next year. He has carried out enormous improvements this winter, such as adding two stories to the Hotel de Paris, taking over and entirely reconstructing the St. James to suit the "modest pocket," and practically rebuilding the Sporting Club and being determined to keep up the reputation of the Principality by making it the jewel in the crown of the Riviera. One improvement will be the removal of the unsightly smoky gas works, an enormous undertaking, from its present position at the foot of the hill and practically rebuilding the opposite side, on the way to Nice. The post office and Cinema, which occupy valuable space opposite the Sporting Club, will in due course be removed and the terrace enlarged. The post office will be removed to the center of the town, behind the "Palais des Beaux Arts," and a new and glorified cinema will be built, probably behind the terrace. There also is talk of entirely covering the railway line in front of the terrace, primarily to do away with the smoke nuisance from the trains, and also to add another tier to the already magnificent terrace.

Apartments at Sporting Club.

And speaking of the improvements in rebuilding the Sporting Club Monte Carlo few visitors will remember this famous club as a hotel, but such it was, and even now apartments are reserved above the gambling rooms for several members of the "Societe des Bains de Mer," as the company owning the gambling concessions is termed. Prince Radzivil, who married the daughter of the late Edmond Blanc, is one of the members who has an apartment over the club. He has been noticed in the gambling rooms this week. He and the Princess are owners of the building, as it was built as a private speculation by the late Edmond Blanc and left to his daughter at his death with a large bloc of shares in the "Societe." The Prince and Princess Radzivil lease the club building to the "Societe."

The Shah of Persia has frequently been noticed at the tables recently, but unlike two years ago, wears dark gray gloves when handling cards at the game. When he was here before he wore white gloves, but says he finds his cleaning bills too heavy. His religion precludes him from touching the cards with bare hands. I heard him recounting to Mr. Solly Joel, who is here on board his yacht Eileen after a trip to Naples, that he had learned English on the boat coming from his kingdom to Monte Carlo, and that he was bringing the Shah of Persia to the "Societe" breakfast and "Bring me dinner."

The Duke of Westminster is another celebrity who is frequently seen at the tables. The Duke of Connaught occasionally motors over from Cannes, and he too appears at the club but seldom gambles. On Sunday he gave a luncheon in honor of Vice-Admiral Alfred E. Niblack, commanding the American fleet in European waters, and the officers and officers of the British and American ships now in the harbor of Villefranche. Admiral Niblack gave a luncheon on board the Utah a few days later for the Duke of Connaught, who gave the first reception of the season last week, and there seemed no end of Americans who motored from Cannes, Monte Carlo and Mentone. Admiral Niblack was assisted in receiving the guests by Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Traut assisted in receiving the guests.

Friends Honor Memory of Miss Marie Bissell

Friends in New York of Miss Marie Seymour Bissell—prominent church soprano and teacher who died March 16 at her home in Hartford—recalled interesting facts last week about her early career. When a girl she was a soloist in several of the largest Hartford churches. At the age of 19 she came to New York and studied with Agnate, Henrietta Beebe and other teachers. Her first engagement was at the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, where she sang for five years. John D. and Mrs. W. A. Traut assisted in receiving the guests.

Miss Bissell sang in oratorio and concerts in New York at the Metropolitan Opera House, Carnegie Hall, Mendelssohn Hall and around the country, under Franz and Walter Damrosch and other prominent conductors. Charles B. Hawley, composer, was her organist for years and dedicated many songs to her. She was an intimate friend of Anna Louise Cary (Mrs. Raymond), who accepted her from among fifty applicants for her leading soprano in her Berkeley Quartet.

Miss Bissell received the highest salary of any church soloist of her time. She was leading soprano of the Musical Art Club under Frank Damrosch in his concerts at Carnegie Hall, and about this time was the director of the Musical Art Club of Bridgeport.

A friend of Miss Bissell paid her this tribute: "She rose to greatness through her own endeavors and generosity gave to aid many a struggling pupil or associate. Her life was devoted to the highest ideals of her art and hundreds of her friends and students will read these lines with sorrow in their hearts."